

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-14

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PARIS PASS UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN ENTRY INTO UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP

REF: OTTAWA 358

1. EXTAFF UNESCO OFFICER GORN CALLED IN EMBOFF TO PRESENT NOTE, DESCRIBED REFTEL, SEEKING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF CANADA AS MEMBER UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. IDENTICAL NOTE BEING DELIVERED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN OTTAWA, AND LATER THIS WEEK IN CAPITALS WHERE GOC ACCREDITED, AND IN PARIS TO ALL UNESCO DELEGATIONS. GORN REPEATED INTEREST IN COORDINATING WITH US OFFICIALS PRIOR TO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE NEXT FALL, BUT PREFERABLY AFTER 94TH EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION. GOC DOES NOT PLAN TO PUSH CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP AT 94TH EXECUTIVE BOARD. GORN REITERATED EXTAFF INTEREST IN HOW DEPARTMENT PLANS PROCEED WITH US APPLICATION. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE QUESTION OF CANADA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP FOR PURPOSES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNESCO REGIONAL CONFERENCES WHICH WILL BE EXAMINED AT THE

XVIIIITH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER 1974.

"AT ITS 92ND SESSION HELD IN JUNE 1973, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED UNDER ITEM 4.2 PARAGRAPH 10 (A) THAT "WITH RESPECT TO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETINGS, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS FORMING PART OF THAT REGION". THIS DECISION IS CONSISTENT WITH CANADA'S LONG TERM INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETINGS AS THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS IN CANADA WHICH ARE ANALOGOUS TO THOSE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, A NATURAL REFLECTION OF ITS PREDOMINANTLY EUROPEAN HERITAGE. THIS FACT HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED, FOR EXAMPLE AT THE MEETING IN 1972 IN HELSINKI OF THE EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE WHICH CANADA ATTENDED AS A FULL PARTICIPANT; AT THE MULTILATERAL PREPARATORY TALKS (MPT) ALSO HELD IN HELSINKI THE SAME YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH A CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF NOW IN PROGRESS IN GENEVA WHERE CANADA IS PLAYING A FULL AND ACTIVE ROLE. IN JULY 1973, CANADA WAS ACCORDED FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.

"WITH THE GROWING TREND WITHIN UNESCO TOWARDS REGIONAL ACTIVITIES, CANADA BELIEVES THAT IT IS BEING DEPRIVED OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE SYSTEMATICALLY IN AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF UNESCO ACTIVITIES BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT IT DOES NOT BELONG TO A REGIONAL GROUP. IN VIEW OF CANADA'S TRADITIONAL HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TIES WITH EUROPE AND ITS CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE UNESCO REGIONAL GROUP TO WHICH CANADA COULD BELONG. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PRESENT INITIATIVE IS PART OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF DIVERSIFYING ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS.

"FOR THESE REASONS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CANADA AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP FOR THE PURPOSES OF PARTICIPATING IN UNESCO REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.
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"(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)". END TEXT
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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